

Simmons, currently an assistant to Energy Secretary Rick Perry, is still listed as an author on Heartland's website. Myron Ebell, a noted climate denier, led Trump's EPA transition team and has written several pieces opposing climate policy for Heartland.

Heartland has received funding from several fossil fuel companies, though it no longer publicly discloses its funders. In 2012, leaked documents from the group showed the group received contributions from the Charles G. Koch Charitable Foundation and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, among others. It has also received funding from ExxonMobil to support work to refute the human causes of climate change.

Last month, Heartland announced former Kansas congressman Tim Huelskamp will become president of the organization. During his political career, Huelskamp's top donor was Koch Industries, and he received more than \$250,000 in campaign contributions from the oil and gas industry. Koch Industries and the Koch family foundations have been one of the biggest funders of organizations that deny humans' role in causing climate change and oppose policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

It remains to be seen who will staff the EPA's red team. NYU professor Steve Koonin, a scientist who formerly worked with both BP and the Obama administration, is reportedly the top contender. In 2014, Koonin wrote a Wall Street Journal op-ed detailing the ways in which climate science is not settled, which included the extent to which humans are causing climate change, a now-frequent talking point among Trump administration officials.

In April, Koonin published another op-ed in the Wall Street Journal, suggesting that a Red Team/Blue Team would be "a step toward resolving . . . differing perceptions of climate science."

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

FDA REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2017—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 174, H.R. 2430.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 174, H.R. 2430, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to revise and extend the user-fee programs for prescription drugs, medical devices, generic drugs, and biosimilar biological products, and for other purposes.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to calendar No. 174, H.R. 2430, an act to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to revise and extend the user-fee programs for prescription drugs, medical devices, generic drugs, and biosimilar biological products, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, Steve Daines, Mike Crapo, James M. Inhofe, Lamar Alexander, Pat Roberts, Thom Tillis, Orrin G. Hatch, John Cornyn, Cory Gardner, Roy Blunt, James E. Risch, Roger F. Wicker, Tim Scott, John Thune, Mike Rounds, John Hoeven.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call be waived with respect to the cloture motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the en bloc consideration of the following nominations: Executive Calendar Nos. 61, 63, 162, 174, 194, 246, 248, and 249.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the nominations.

The legislative clerk read the nominations of Elaine McCusker, of Virginia, to be a Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense; Robert Daigle, of Virginia, to be Director of Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation, Department of Defense; Robert R. Hood, of Georgia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense; Richard V. Spencer, of Wyoming, to be Secretary of the Navy; Ryan McCarthy, of Illinois, to be Under Secretary of the Army; Lucian Niemeyer, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense; Matthew P. Donovan, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of the Air Force; and Ellen M. Lord, of Rhode Island, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc; that no further motions be in order; that any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the McCusker, Daigle, Hood, Spencer, McCarthy, Niemeyer, Donovan, and Lord nominations en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, for the information of Senators, the Senate just confirmed eight nominees for the Defense Department.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session. Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DAINES). Without objection, it is so ordered.

FDA REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2017—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

CLIMATE DISRUPTION

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, climate disruption is a seminal challenge of our generation. It affects everything from our farms to our forests to our fishing. We see the impact in disappearing glaciers, melting permafrost, shrinking ice sheets, raging forest fires, dying coral reefs, migrating animals and insects, and more powerful storms.

The world is changing right in front of us. It is appropriate to call this climate disruption because our climate is broken, and it is affecting so many things that we value. In response, communities across the globe are transforming their energy economies—from increasing the energy efficiency of buildings, vehicles, and appliances to replacing a carbon-polluting fossil-fuel-energy economy with a renewable and clean-energy economy.

How much do you know about the changes under way? Let's find out. Welcome to episode 4 of the Senate Climate Disruption Quiz.

Here we go. First question: Atmospheric carbon dioxide is at its highest level in at least how many years? Is it 88 years? Is it the highest level in the last 8,000 years? Is it the highest level in the last 800,000 years, or is it the highest level in the last 80 million years?

Think about your answer.

The correct answer is C, 800,000 years.

In September 2016, we reached a historic milestone. The carbon dioxide readings for the planet reached 400 parts per million. For perspective, before the industrial revolution, before we started burning fossil fuels in massive quantities, that number was about 280 parts per million.

Here is something that is even scarier. The rate is going up faster and faster. In 1965 and 1975, it was going up at about 1 part per million per year. Then, a couple of decades later, it was 2 parts per million per year, and the last 2 years, it has gone up at a rate of 3 parts per million per year.

As the human civilization, we have to turn this around. We have to not only slow it down, but we have to turn it around and lower those levels of carbon dioxide if we are going to save our blue-green planet.

Question No. 2, which Governor announced that he or she will hold a global climate summit here in America next year?

Is the answer Jerry Brown? Is the answer Governor Rick Snyder of Michigan, Governor Susana Martinez of New Mexico, or Governor Rick Scott of Florida?

The answer—now that you have decided which one you think is right—is A, Governor Jerry Brown of California. He announced on July 6 that he will bring together entrepreneurs, mathematicians, professors, climate experts, and others from around the world in September 2018 for a summit to “combat the existential threat of climate change.”

This meeting is being viewed as a very significant undertaking to keep the conversation going forward, because in the absence of the United States being deeply involved in the Paris Agreement, the United States has to be involved in many other ways. This issue is too big, and the challenge is too great for us to be sitting it out.

Let's turn to question No. 3. The world's first floating wind farm is being constructed off the coast of which country? Is it Germany? Is it off the coast of the United States? Is it Scotland? Or is it France?

I might point out that, when we see a floating wind farm, we are talking about a wind farm in which the sea floor is deep enough that it can't be anchored; that is, the turbine cannot be anchored on the sea floor. There is a hint, a little clue.

Do you have your answer?

The correct answer is C, Scotland.

The Peterhead wind farm, off the coast of Scotland, is using revolutionary technology to harvest wind power in waters that are too deep for wind turbines to be anchored on the seabed.

The wind farm's first turbine was just towed into place. Once finished, it will include five 6-megawatt turbines. By the way, those are much larger turbines than the ones we have on land in the United States. The blades will be 246 feet long. Together, the group of turbines will be able to power 20,000 homes by the end of the installation.

Maybe we will see some of those appearing off the coast of the United States in the future.

Let's turn to question No. 4. Glacier National Park in 1910 had 150 glaciers. How many are there today? Are there 200? Are there 150? Are there 25? Or are there 10?

What is the answer?

The answer is C, 25.

Here we are in just a century, and we have gone from 150 glaciers in Glacier National Park to only 25 left. According to Dan Fagre, a USGS research ecologist, “within 20 years, the bulk of the remaining glaciers will be too small to be considered active glaciers.”

When these glaciers are gone, it will have a significant impact on Montana and its economy. They typically put off

a significant amount of water in late August and early September. They feed streams that would otherwise dry up. They provide cool water that plays a critical role in the life cycles of both insects and fish. If you are planning to see the glaciers in Glacier National Park, go soon.

Let's turn to question No. 5. Tesla, the electric car company, is set to install the world's largest grid-scale battery in which country? Are they going to install that battery in China, in Australia, in Mexico, or in Spain?

If you had time to ponder the question and develop your answer, the answer is not China, which you might expect because China is so large and is so engaged in renewable energy today, nor is it Mexico or Spain. It is Australia.

Australia has embraced renewable energy. In 2016, renewable sources produced more than 17 percent of the country's electricity. South Australia has raced ahead of the rest of the country in embracing renewables, particularly wind power.

Until now, it has not been able to adequately store the energy generated by the region's wind farms. Later this year, Tesla will install the world's largest lithium-ion grid-scale battery and pair it with one of the wind farms, in a major leap forward for large-scale renewable energy use.

The idea is that the 129-megawatt-hour battery, which is capable of putting out 100 megawatts of power at a time, will help stabilize South Australia's electrical grid and provide backup power if there is a shortfall.

More and more, as we have wind on the grid and as we have solar power on the grid, batteries are being turned to as a strategy to even out the flow of electricity.

There you have it, folks. Five questions in episode 4 of the Senate Climate Disruption Quiz. They are questions ripped right from the headlines. Facts on the ground are changing fast, as climate disruption increases and communities across the globe are responding. We are racing the clock. There is no time to spare.

Stay engaged in the fight to save our beautiful blue-green planet. In the near future, I will bring you episode 5 of the Senate Climate Disruption Quiz.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior no-

tification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA.

Hon. BOB CORKER,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 17-29, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of the Republic of Iraq for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$150 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

GREGORY M. KAUSNER,
Acting Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 17-29

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: The Republic of Iraq.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment* \$0 million.

Other \$150 million.

Total \$150 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Non-MDE:

Follow-On Technical Support (FOTS) for various U.S.-origin navy vessels and a ship repair facility in Iraq to include procurement of spare and repair parts, support and test equipment, publications and technical documentation, personnel training equipment, engineering and logistics support services and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Navy (XX-P-GAS).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: GAL, 20 May 14; GAM, 20 May 14; GAO, 3 Nov 16.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: None.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: August 1, 2017.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Republic of Iraq—Follow-On Technical Support (FOTS) for U.S. Origin Navy Vessels and a Ship Repair Facility

The Government of Iraq has requested a possible sale of Follow-On Technical Support